

Program Overview – National Leadership Grants for Museums

National Leadership Grants (NLG) for Museums support projects that address critical needs of the museum field and that have the potential to advance practice in the profession so that museums can improve services for the American public.

Distinguishing features of all National Leadership Grants for Museums projects are:

- *Broad Impact:* Projects should show the potential for far-reaching impact beyond the applicant institution and influence practice across one or more disciplines or specific fields within the museum profession.
- *In-depth Knowledge:* Proposals should reflect a thorough understanding of current practice and knowledge about the subject matter and an awareness and support of current strategic initiatives and agendas in the field.
- *Innovative Approach:* Proposals should employ novel approaches or techniques new to the project area to strengthen and improve museum services to benefit the audiences and communities being served.
- *Collaborative Process:* Projects should incorporate audience, stakeholders and/or other partners to demonstrate broad need, field-wide buy-in and input, access to appropriate expertise, and sharing of resources.
- *Shared Results:* Projects should generate results such as models, new tools, research findings, services, practices, and/or alliances that can be widely used, adapted, scaled, or replicated to extend and leverage the benefits of federal investment.

There are three project categories within the NLG-Museums grant program:

Learning Experiences

IMLS supports the unique ability of museums to empower people of all ages through experiential learning and discovery. Successful projects advance the museum field's ability to provide high-quality, inclusive educational opportunities that address particular audience needs.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Development, implementation, and dissemination of model programs that create engaging learning opportunities
- Development and implementation of training and professional development programs, tools, or resources that build the knowledge, skills and abilities of museum staff and/or volunteers in multiple institutions
- Research focusing on the role of museums in engaging learners

Community Anchors

IMLS promotes the role of museums as essential partners in addressing the needs of their communities by leveraging their expertise, knowledge, physical space, technology, and other resources. These projects advance the museum field's ability to create a better quality of life within communities.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Development, implementation, and dissemination of model programs that use museum resources to address community needs
- Development of new and innovative methods for addressing community challenges through partnerships, services, processes, or practices
- Development and implementation of training and professional development programs, tools, or resources that build the knowledge, skills and abilities of museum staff and/or volunteers to meet the needs of their communities
- Research focusing on the role and value of museums as community anchors

Collections Stewardship

IMLS supports exemplary management, care, and conservation of museum collections. Successful projects advance the museum field's ability to identify new solutions that address high priority and widespread collections care or conservation issues.

Projects may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Development, implementation and dissemination of new tools or services that facilitate access, presentation, management, preservation, sharing, and use of museum collections
- Development and implementation of training and professional development programs, tools, or resources that impact the ability of museum staff and/or volunteers in multiple institutions to improve the stewardship of collections
- Research focusing on any broadly relevant aspect of the management, conservation and preservation of collections.
- Building or strengthening coalitions to enhance collections care